

## **REMARKS**

Claims 1-7 directed to an apparatus have been cancelled and Claims 8-15 directed to a method remaining pending in the application. The Examiner has required Applicant to provide a new title for the invention that is descriptive and clearly indicates the invention to which the claims are directed. In accordance with the Examiner's directions, Applicant has change the title of the invention from Duct Seal System to the new title of Method for Applying Liner to Air Duct.

Claims 8 and 12 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph as being indefinite since the Examiner states that in steps a and b, a 1<sup>st</sup> end of a supply line and spray device are inserted into a 1<sup>st</sup> duct opening so they exit at a 2<sup>nd</sup> duct opening. Step c further requires that the device be pulled by the supply line between the openings. The Examiner finds this confusing because the supply line is never placed into the second opening so that the device can be pulled from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 2<sup>nd</sup> opening. The Examiner stated that the claims would be interpreted as the device with supply line attached being pulled from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 2<sup>nd</sup> opening to coat the duct interior.

Applicant has amended claim 8 to clearly specify that the first end of the supply line is initially pushed through the duct from the first opening to the entrance to the supply plenum without lining material being sprayed. Then the first end of the supply line is pulled back along the same path, i.e. from a location at the entrance to

the supply plenum to the first opening, while a spray device that is attached to first end of the supply line applies a spray of liquid liner to the interior of the duct.

Claim 12 has been amended so that it is now made dependent upon amended Claim 8. The amendments to Claim 8 also address any indefiniteness problems associated with Claim 12.

Claims 8 and 12 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Berdin. Also, Claims 11 and 15 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious in light of Berdin and further in view of Moore. Finally, Claims 9, 10, 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious in light of Berdin and further in view of Brass.

Applicant has amended claim 8 to specify that the first end of the supply line is first pushed through the air duct so that it stops at the entrance to the supply plenum for the air conditioner unit. None of the patents cited against the present invention teach or imply the desirability of positioning the first end of the supply line in a heating and air conditioning duct at the entrance to the supply plenum for the air conditioner unit. This positioning is critical to achieving a complete and continuous coating of the entire duct system. After so positioning the first end of the supply line, then flow of liquid liner is initiated and the first end of the supply line is pulled back through the duct. This results in the portion of the duct through which the first end of the supply line is pulled being coated with the liquid liner material.

Further Claim 12 continues the process of Claim 8 by again inserting the first end of the supply line into another duct opening and pushing the first end of the supply line through an unlined portion of the duct until the first end of the supply line

is positioned at a location where the duct branches and intersects with a portion of the duct that has previously been lined. Again this positioning of the first end of the supply line is critical in order to achieve complete coverage of the interior of the branched duct system. When the first end is so positioning and flow of liquid liner is initiated, the newly applied coating of liner material overlaps the previously applied coating. Also, as the first end of the supply line is pulled back through the duct, the liner is applied through that previously unlined portion of the duct. Nothing in any of the reference cited against the present invention teach or imply the desirability of reinserting a first end of a supply line into a duct and removing it from the duct in this manner to achieve a continuous liner in a branched air duct system.

Applicant has added new claim 16 which repeats the process described in Claim 12. By reinserting the first end of the supply line into each of the other openings in the duct, pushing the first end of the supply line through an unlined portion of the duct until the first end of the supply line is positioned at a location where the duct branches and intersects with a portion of the duct that has previously been lined, and then initiating the flow of liquid liner material while pulling the first end of the supply line out of the duct, the process creates a continuous liner of a multiple-branched air duct system. None of the art cited against the present invention teaches or implies the desirability of repeatedly inserting a first end of a supply line in this manner into a multiple-branched air duct system in order to create a continuous liner for the duct.

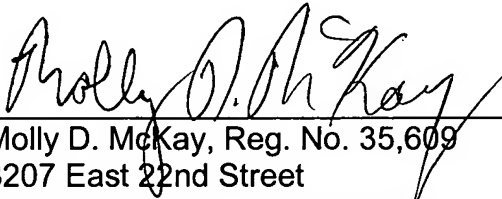
In summary, Applicant has amended the specification to include a more descriptive title for the invention as claimed. Applicant has amended the claims to

address the indefiniteness problem cited by the Examiner and to make clear the method claimed is not simply lining a single straight piece of pipe or tubing, but involves lining a multiple-branched air conditioning duct which requires the supply line be reinserted into each of the branches of the duct in order to fully and completely coat the internal surfaces of the duct.

It is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees to the deposit account of the undersigned, No. 13-0470.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Enclosure: Petition for Extension of Time to File Response (2 Copies)  
Check in the amount of \$510.00 for 3 month extension fee  
Amended claims (pages 15-19)

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